

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-4 and 8.

As a second preliminary matter, with regard to the drawings, Applicants have included herewith marked-up copies of Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6-7, 10, and 12-15, with the proposed changes shown in red. As can be seen from the changes, Applicants have attempted to respond to the points noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

As a third preliminary matter, the Title of the Invention has been amended again to comply with the Examiner's request. Entry and approval of the amended Title are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being directed non-statutory subject matter. Claim 9 has been amended herein according to the Examiner's suggestions on page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, and Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in light of these amendments. Specifically, the claim has been amended to be more clearly directed to a "computer-readable storage medium, on which is recorded a program." The Examiner should find that this minor amendment to only the preamble of the claim renders the claim to be statutory subject matter, and particularly as such is defined in Section 2106 of the MPEP.

The Examiner should also now find that all of the amendments to the Specification, drawings, and claim 9 herein address only issues of formality, and are

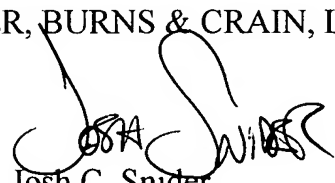
therefore all appropriate and necessary for entry even after a final rejection. Specifically with regard to claim 9, Applicants again point out that the amendments made to this claim are to the preamble only, which is generally not given patentable weight. The subject matter of claim 9 remains the same as it was in the previous Amendment, and thus no new issues have been raised that require any further search or consideration by the Examiner.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including at least claims 1-4 and 8-9, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please approve the drawing changes as shown in red on the attached marked-up copies of Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6-7, 10, and 12-15. A separate Letter to the Draftsman indicating the same proposed changes is also enclosed.



FIG. 2

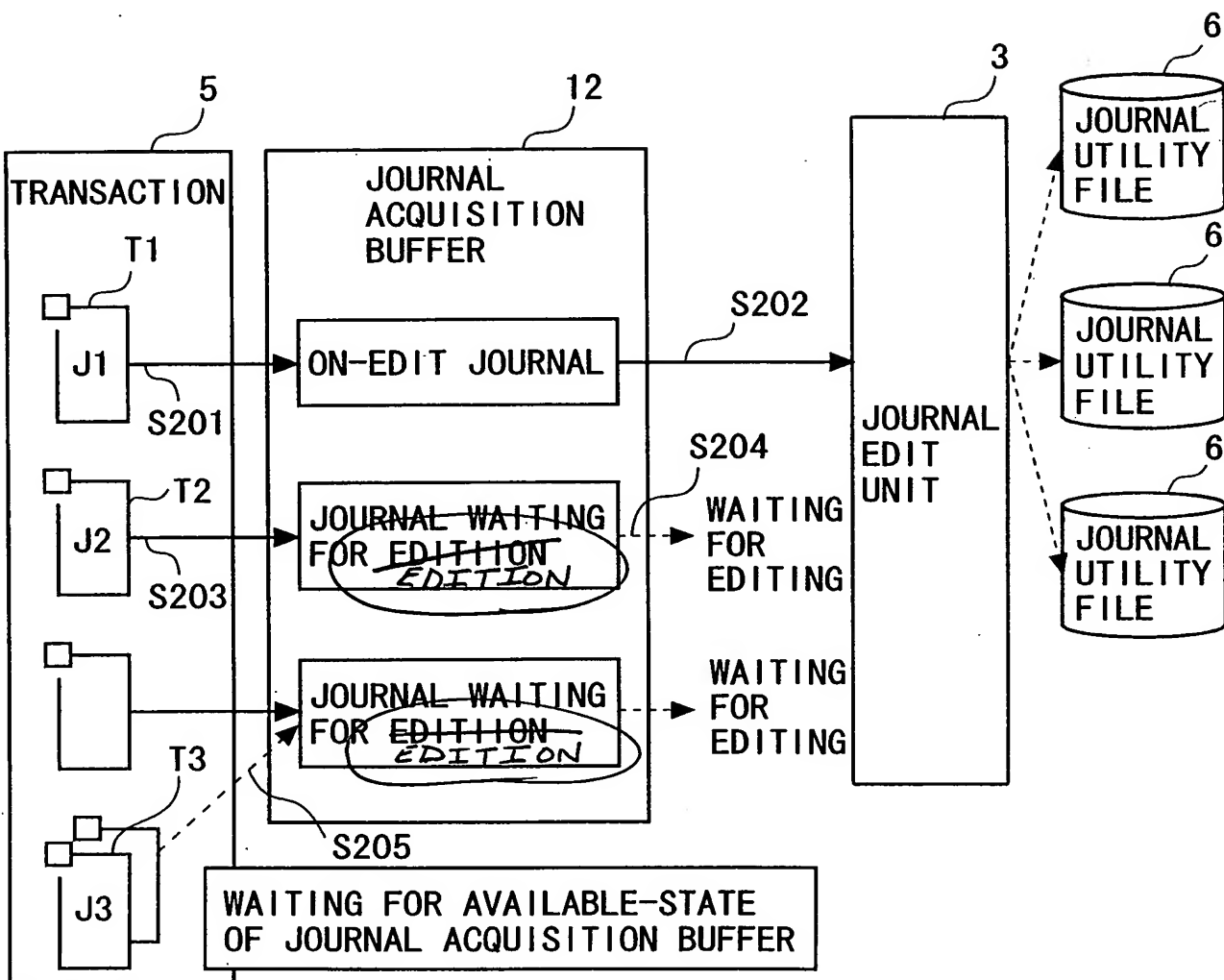


FIG. 3

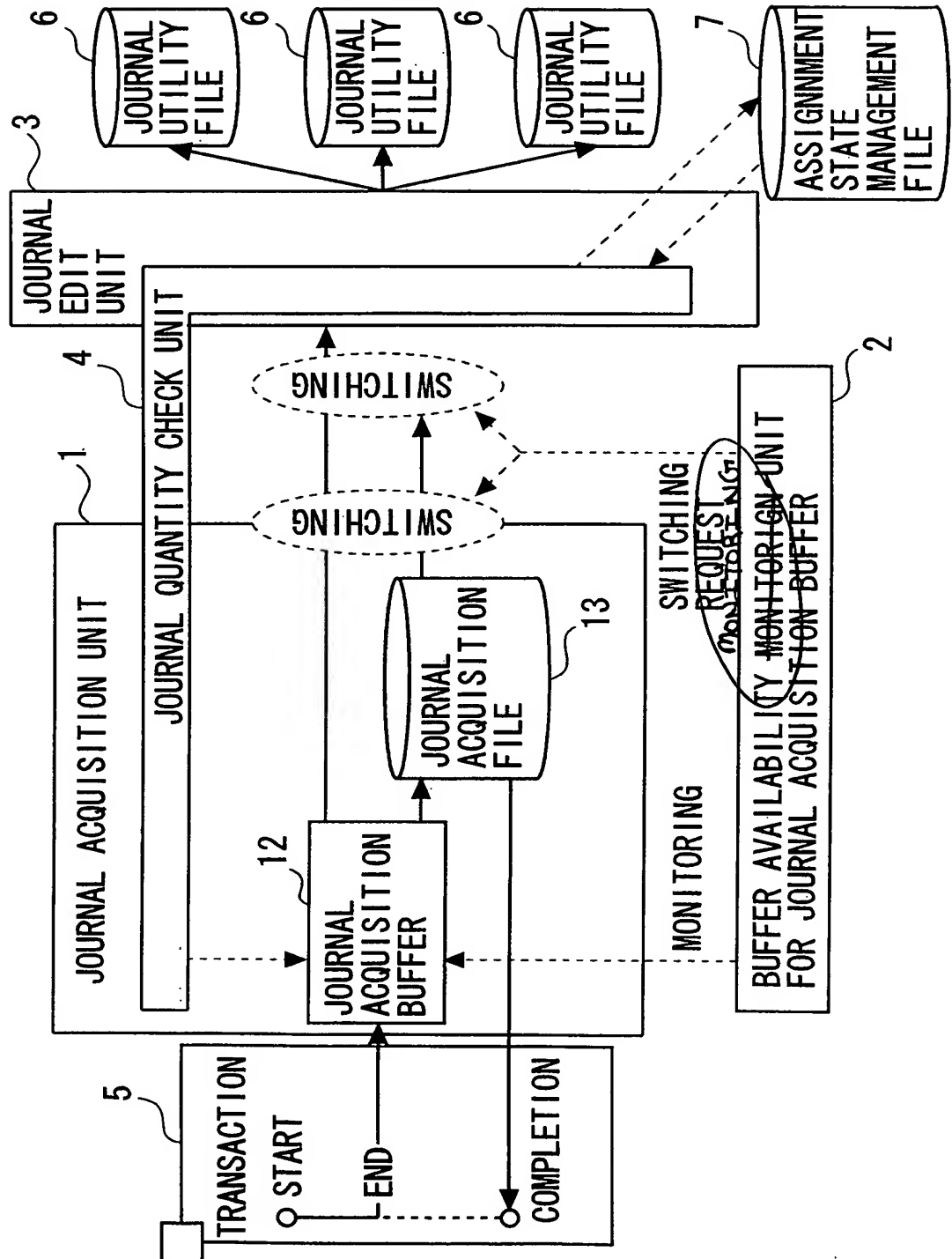


FIG. 5

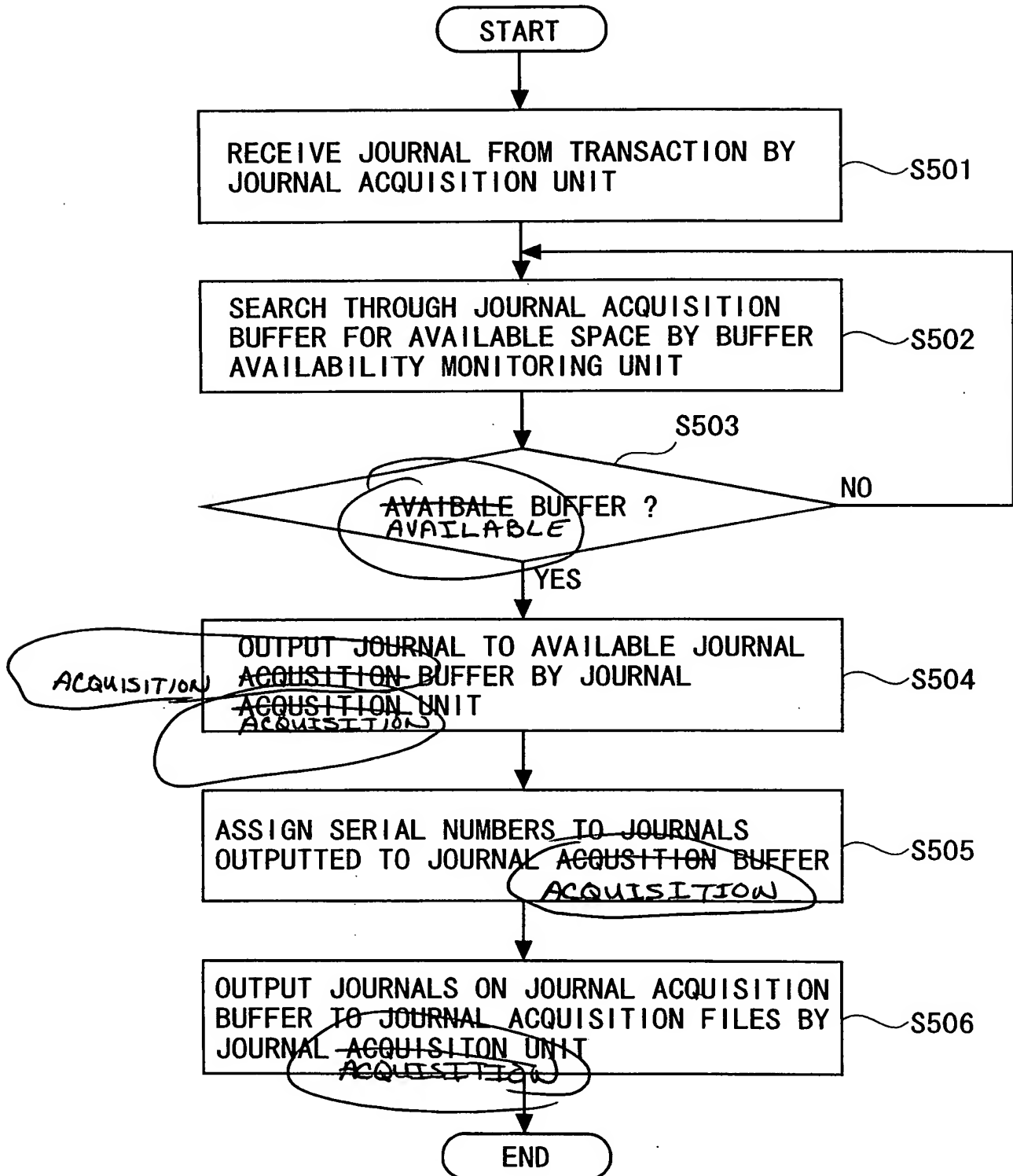


FIG. 6

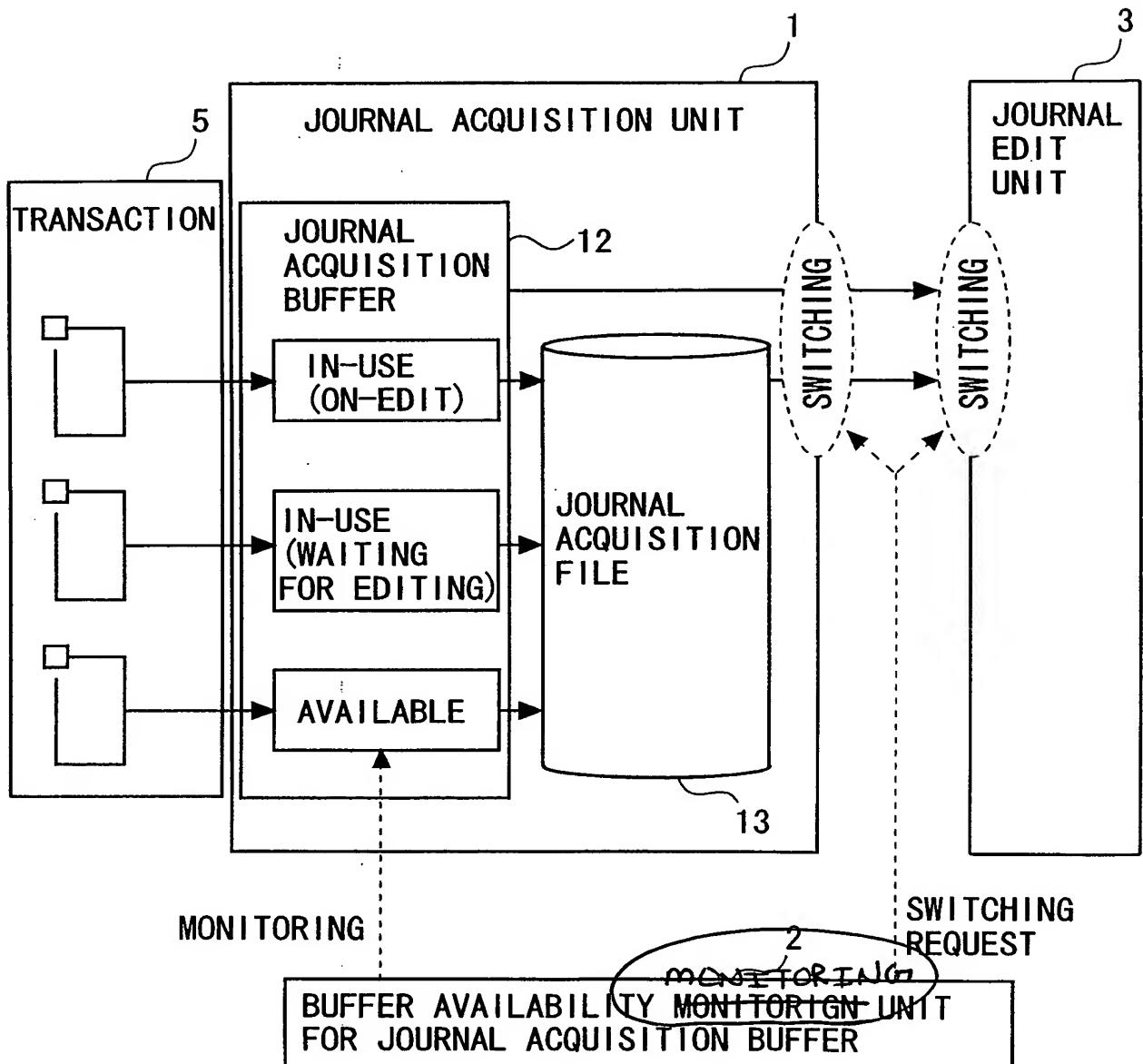


FIG. 7

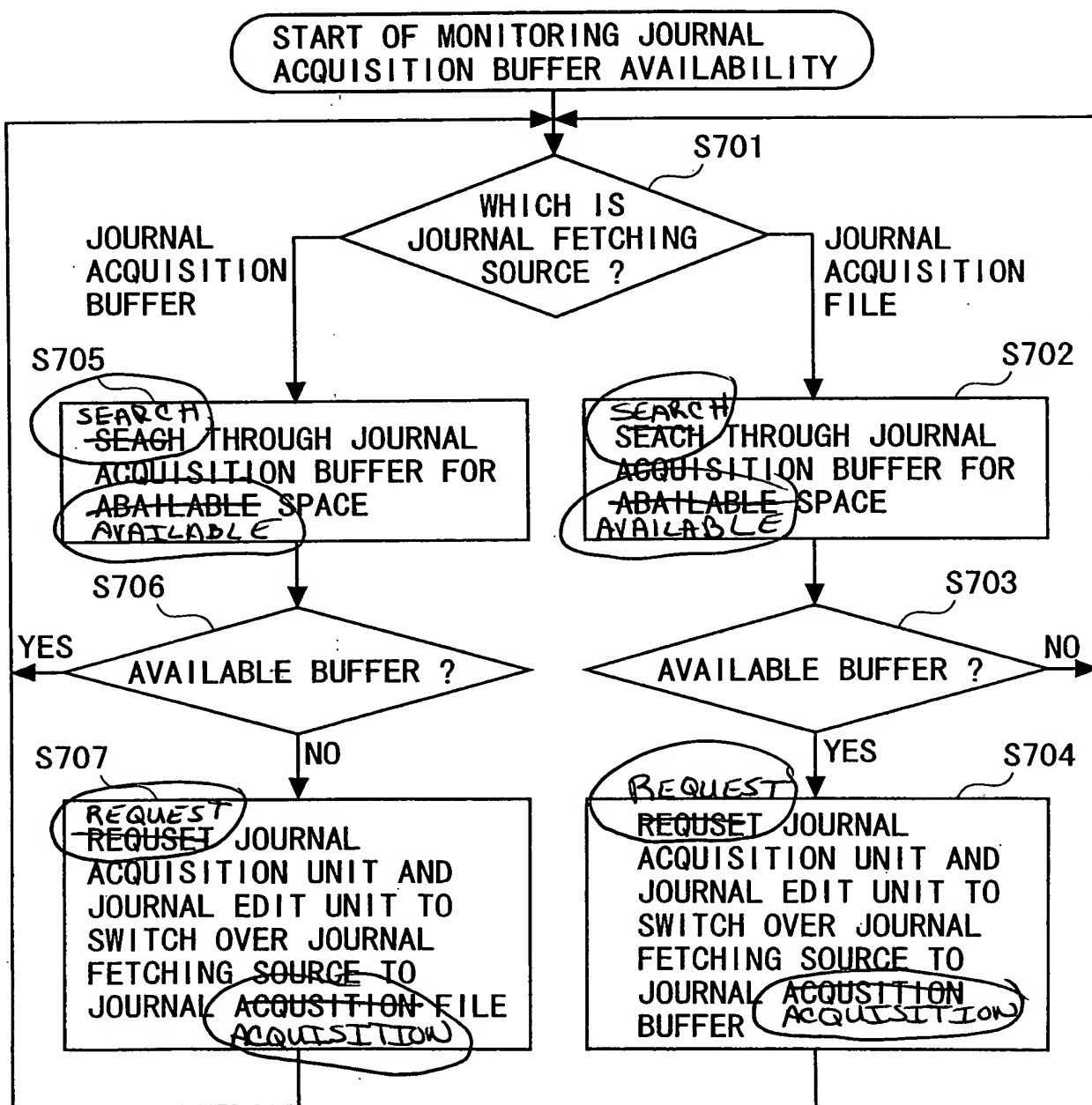


FIG. 10

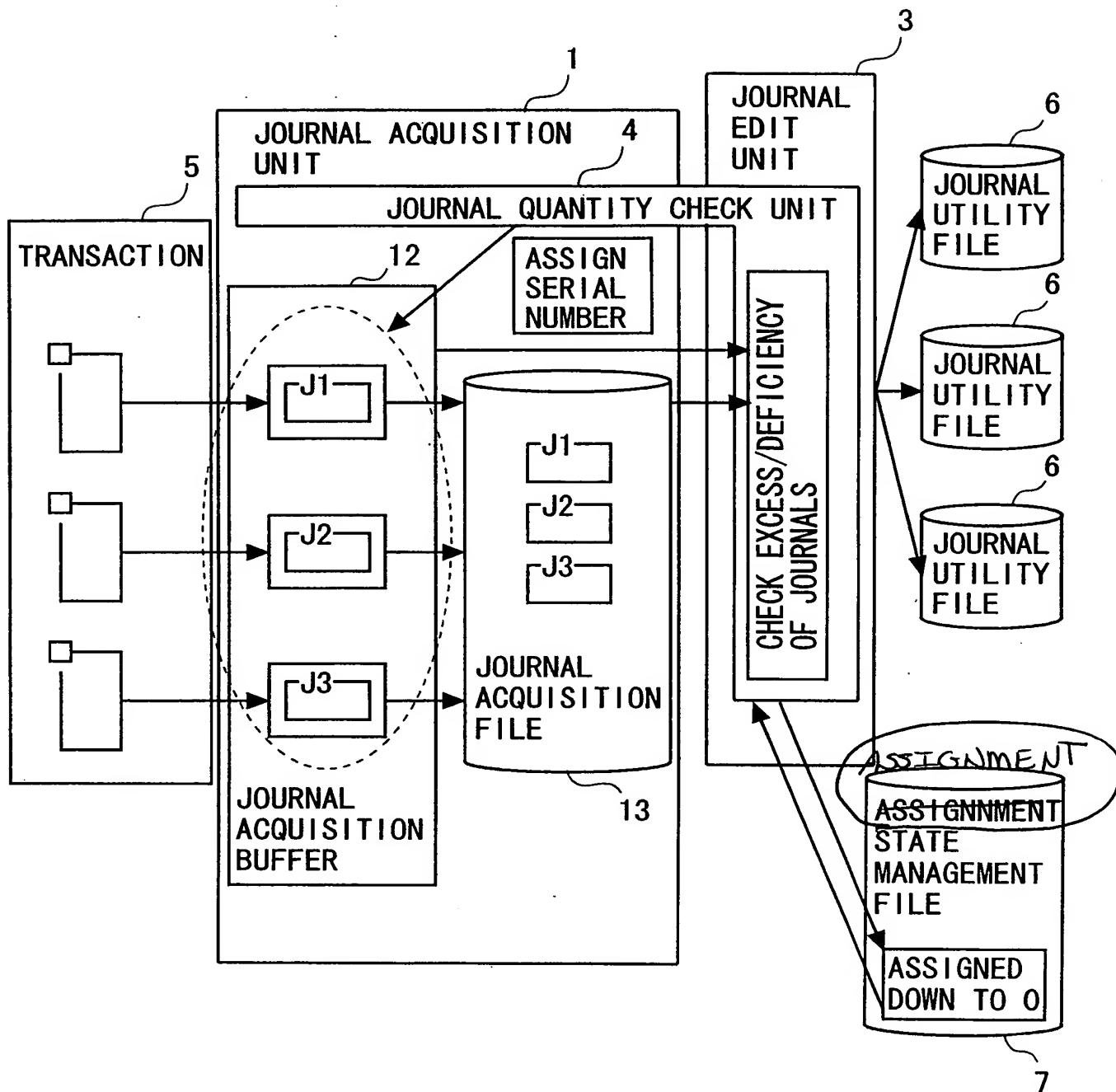


FIG. 12

JOURNAL ACQUISITION UNIT 1

JOURNAL QUANTITY CHECK UNIT 4

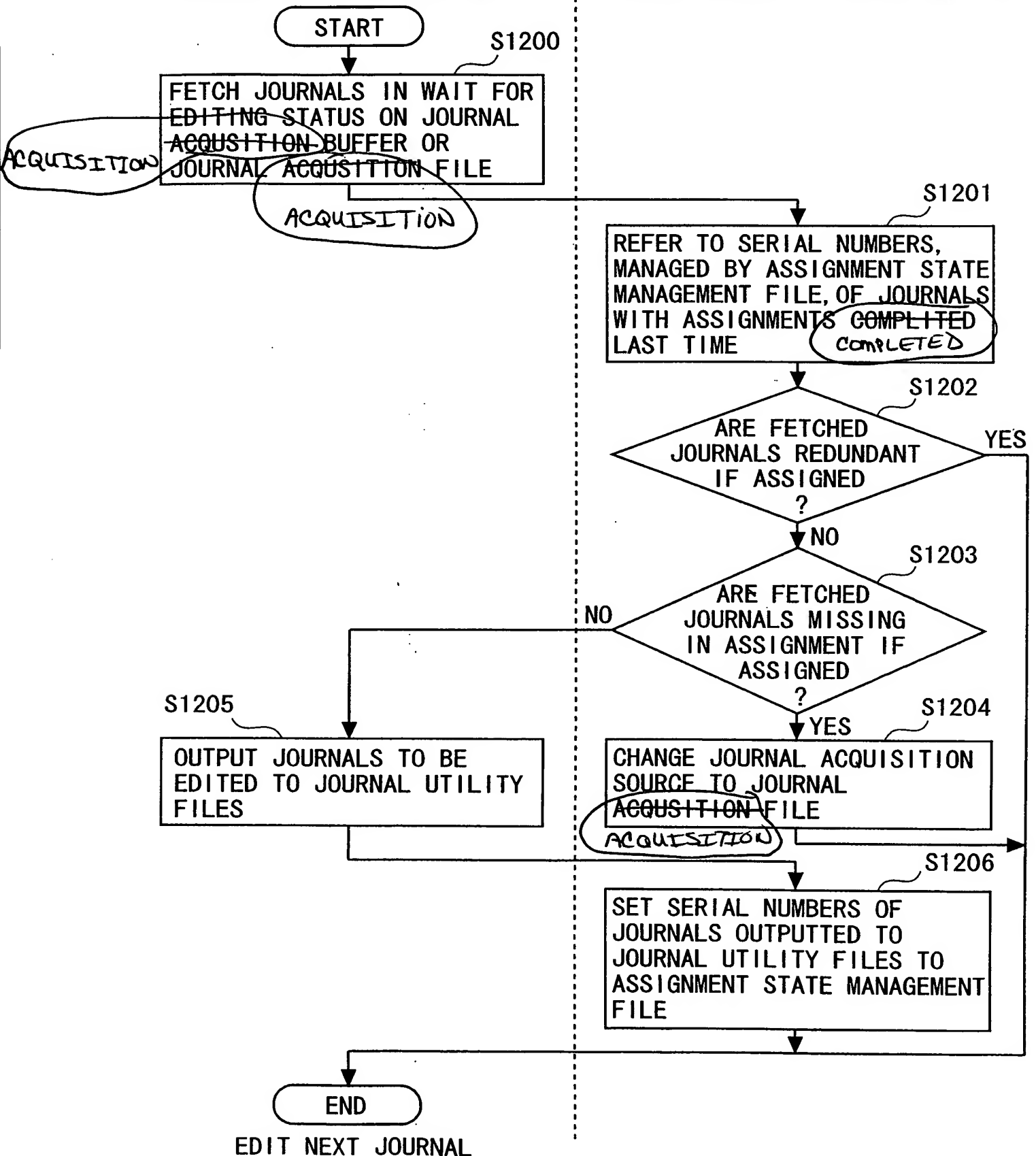


FIG. 13

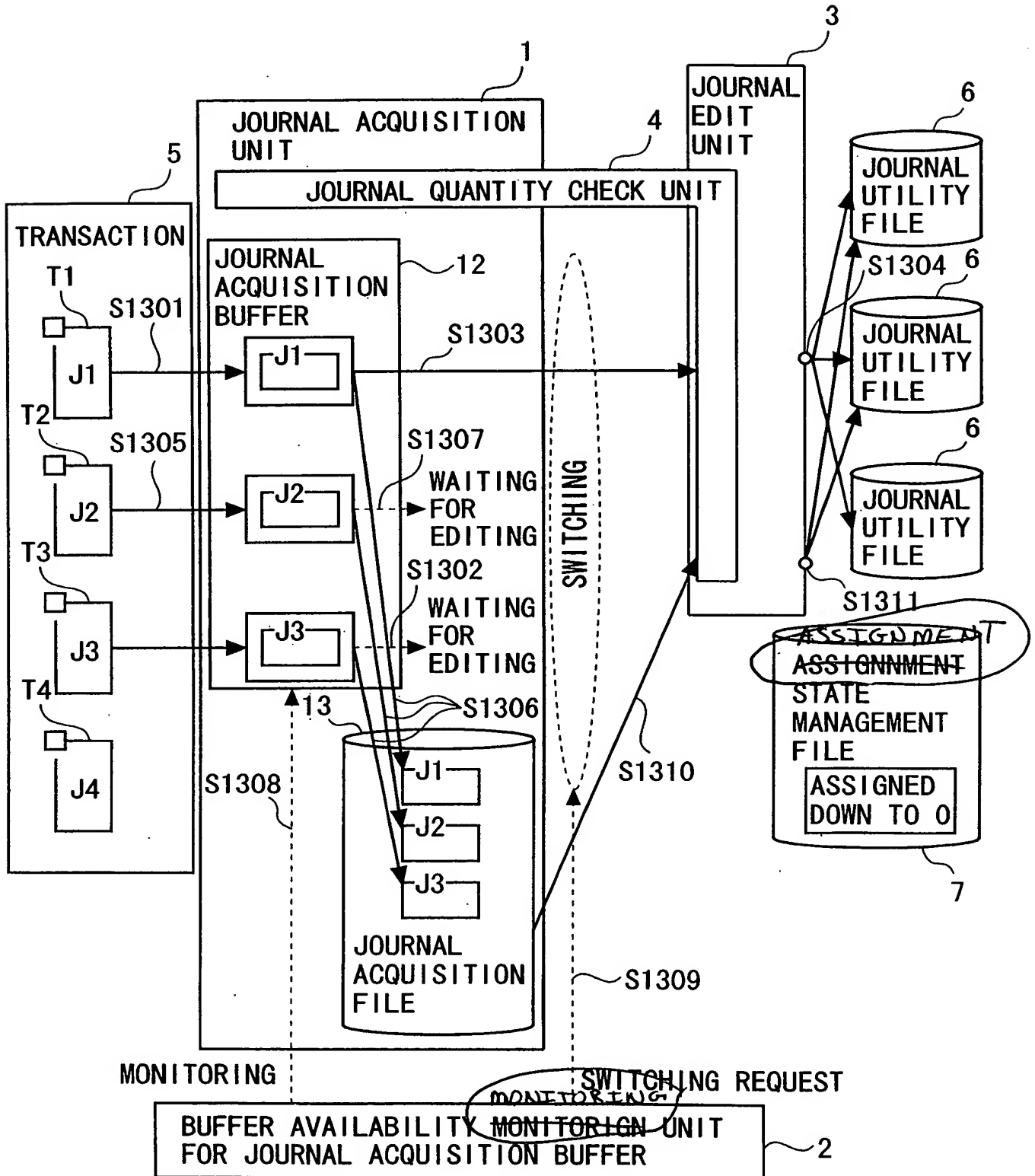


FIG. 14

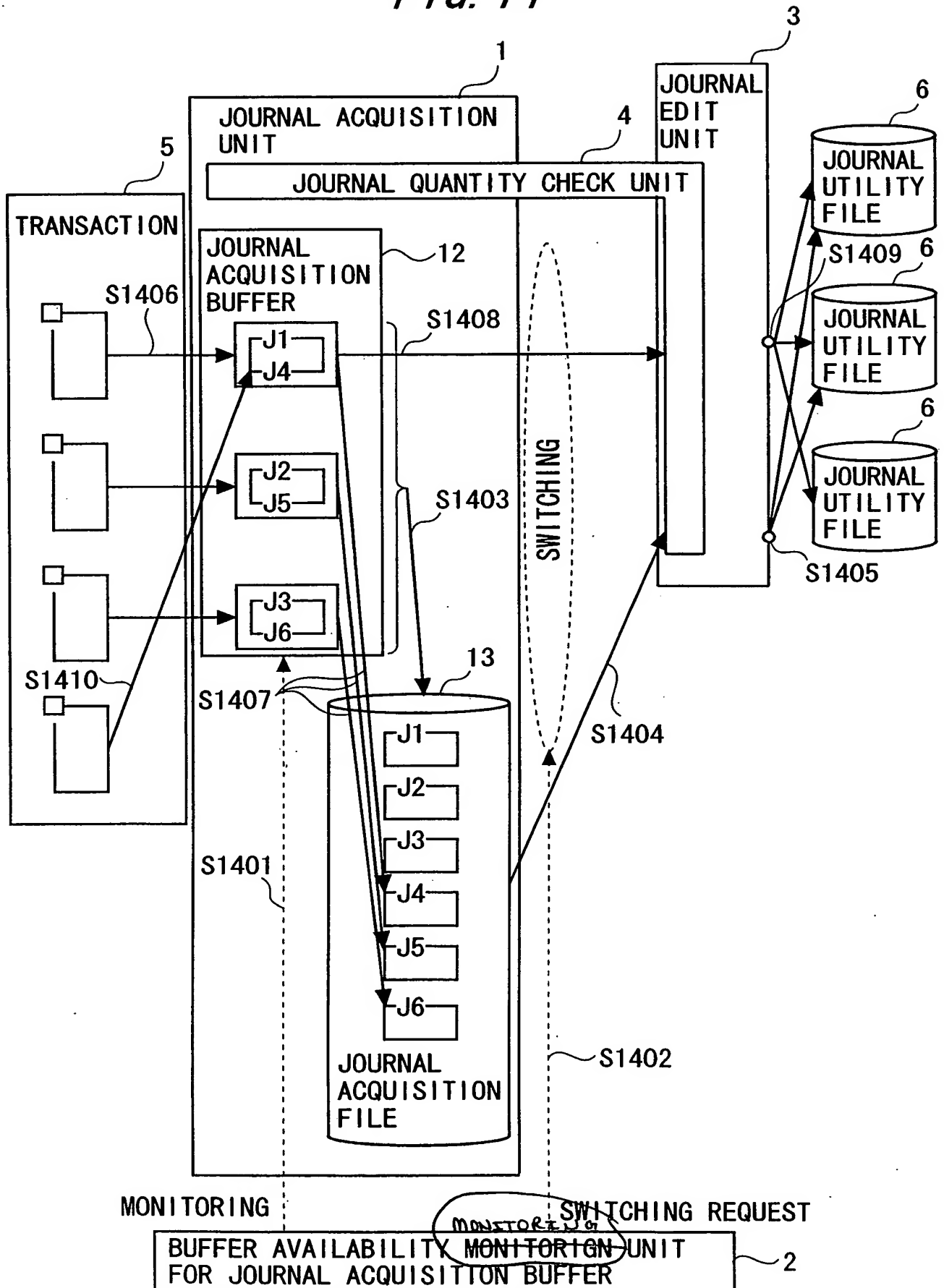


FIG. 15

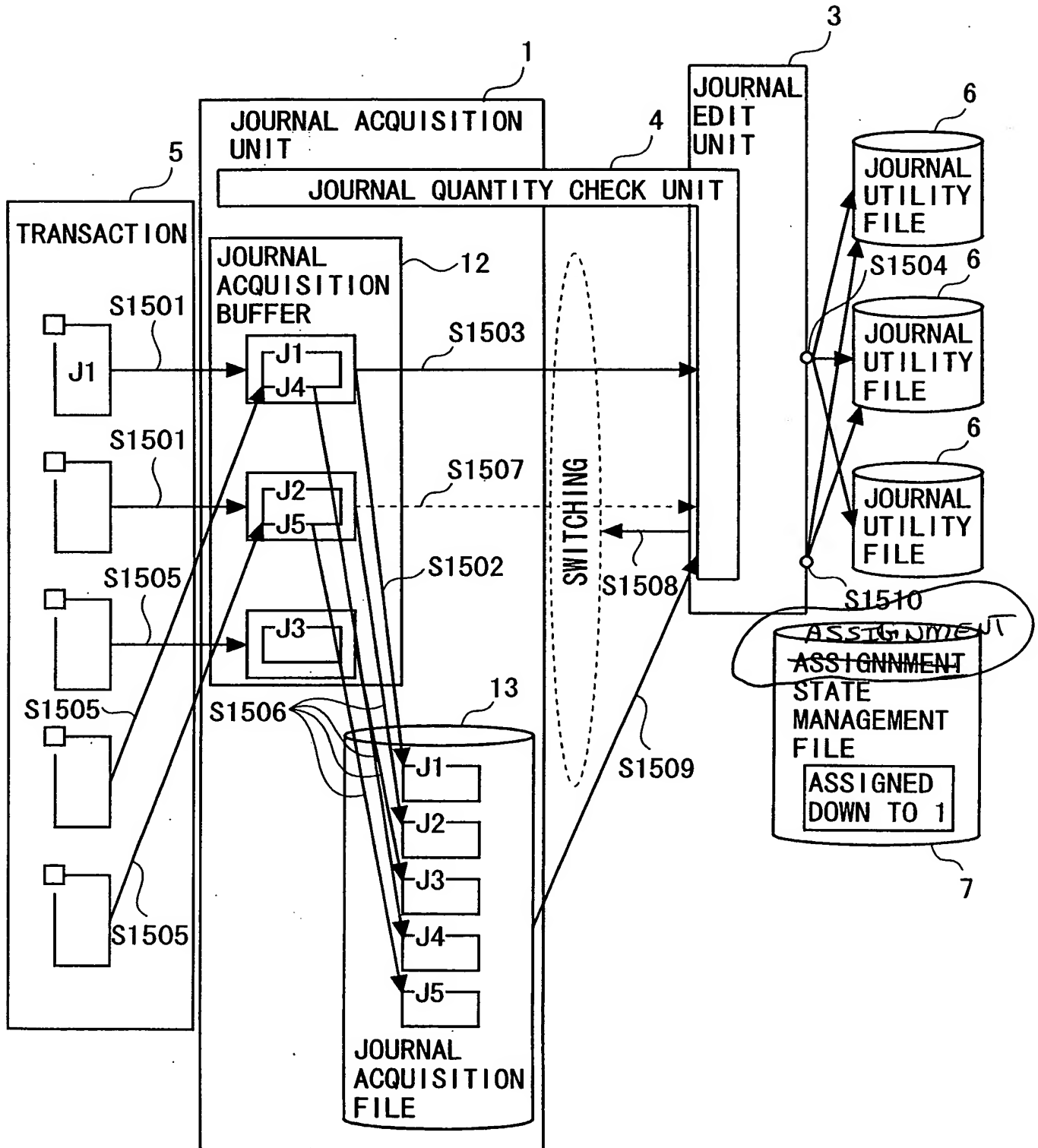




FIG. 6

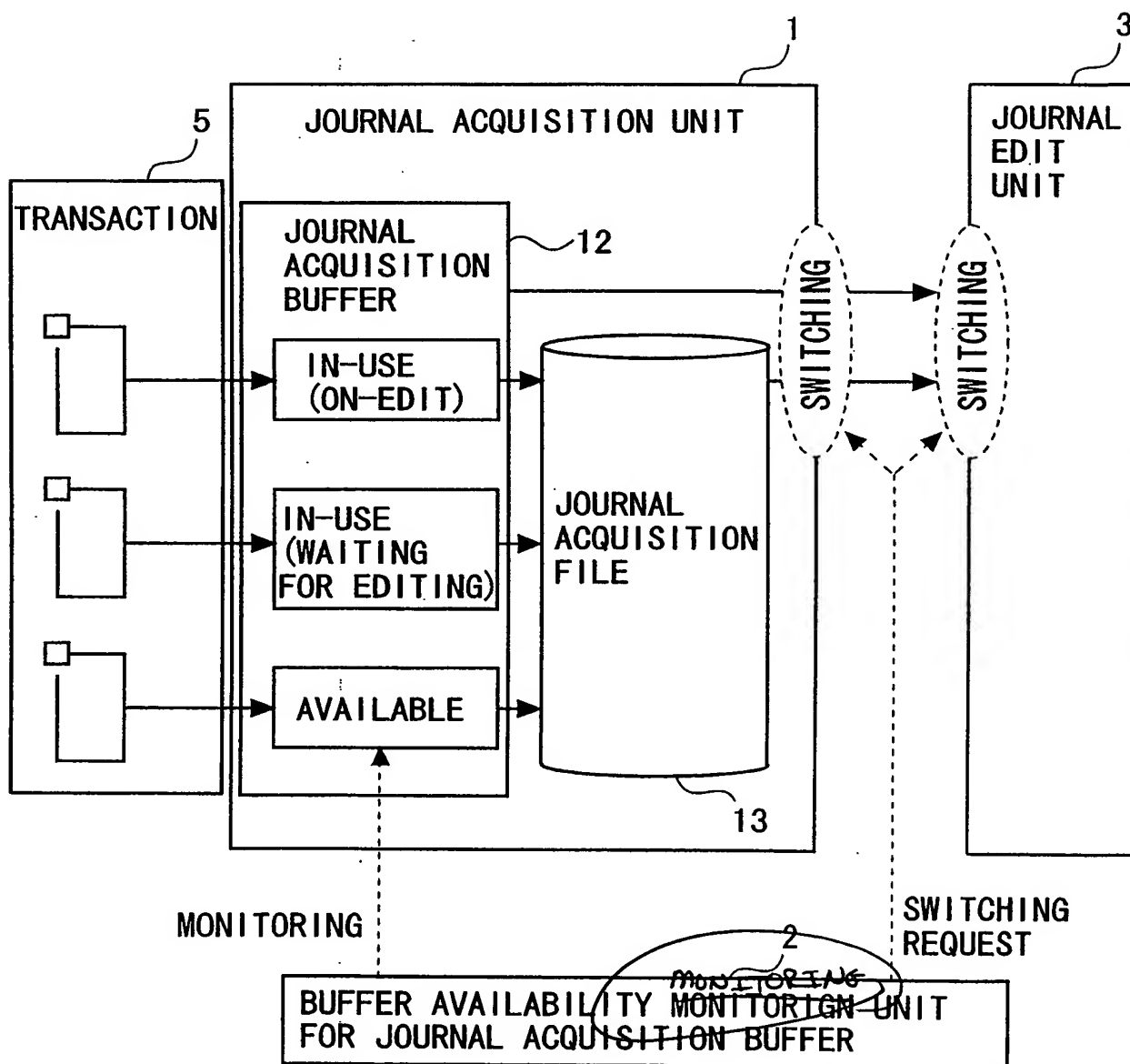


FIG. 5

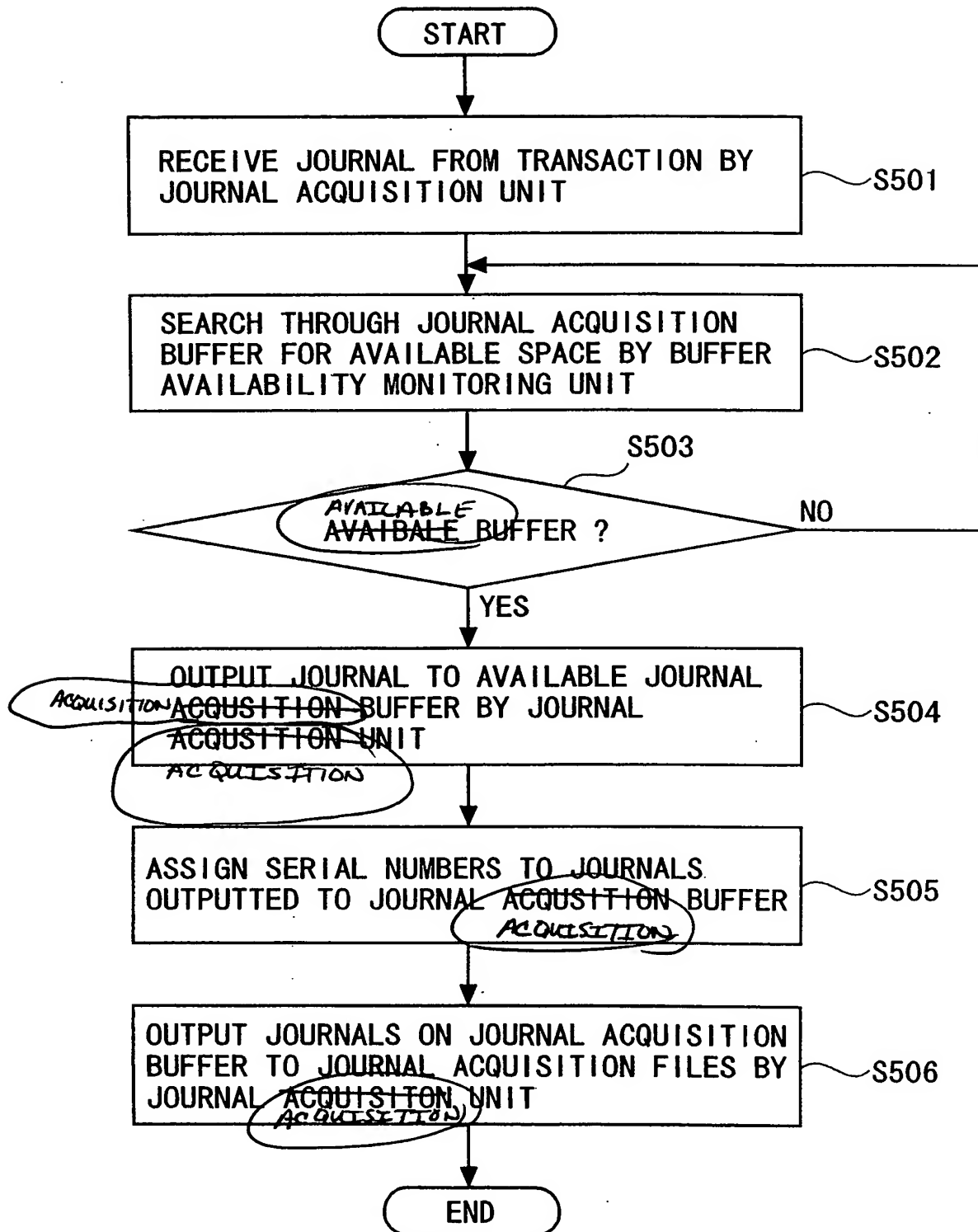


FIG. 3

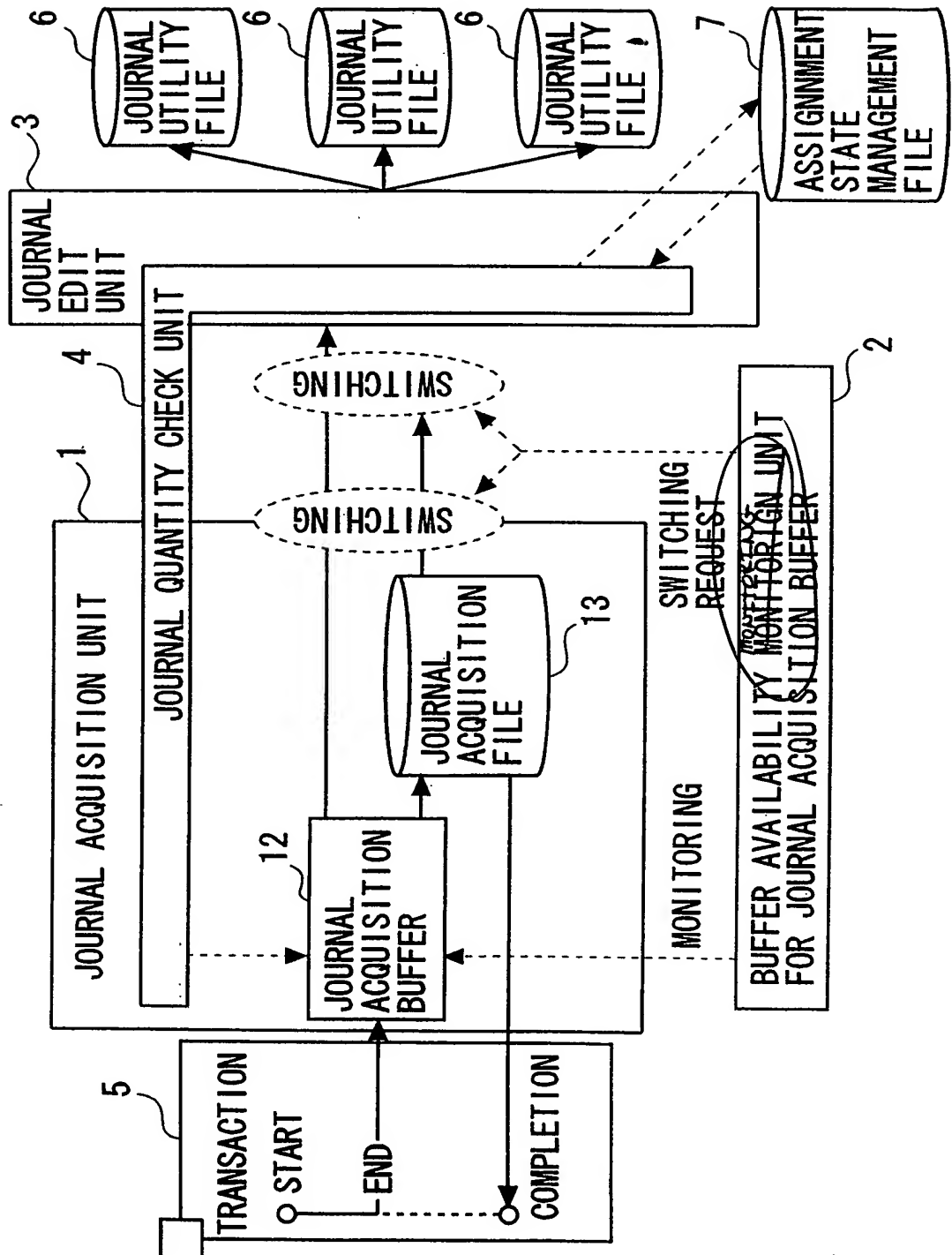


FIG. 2

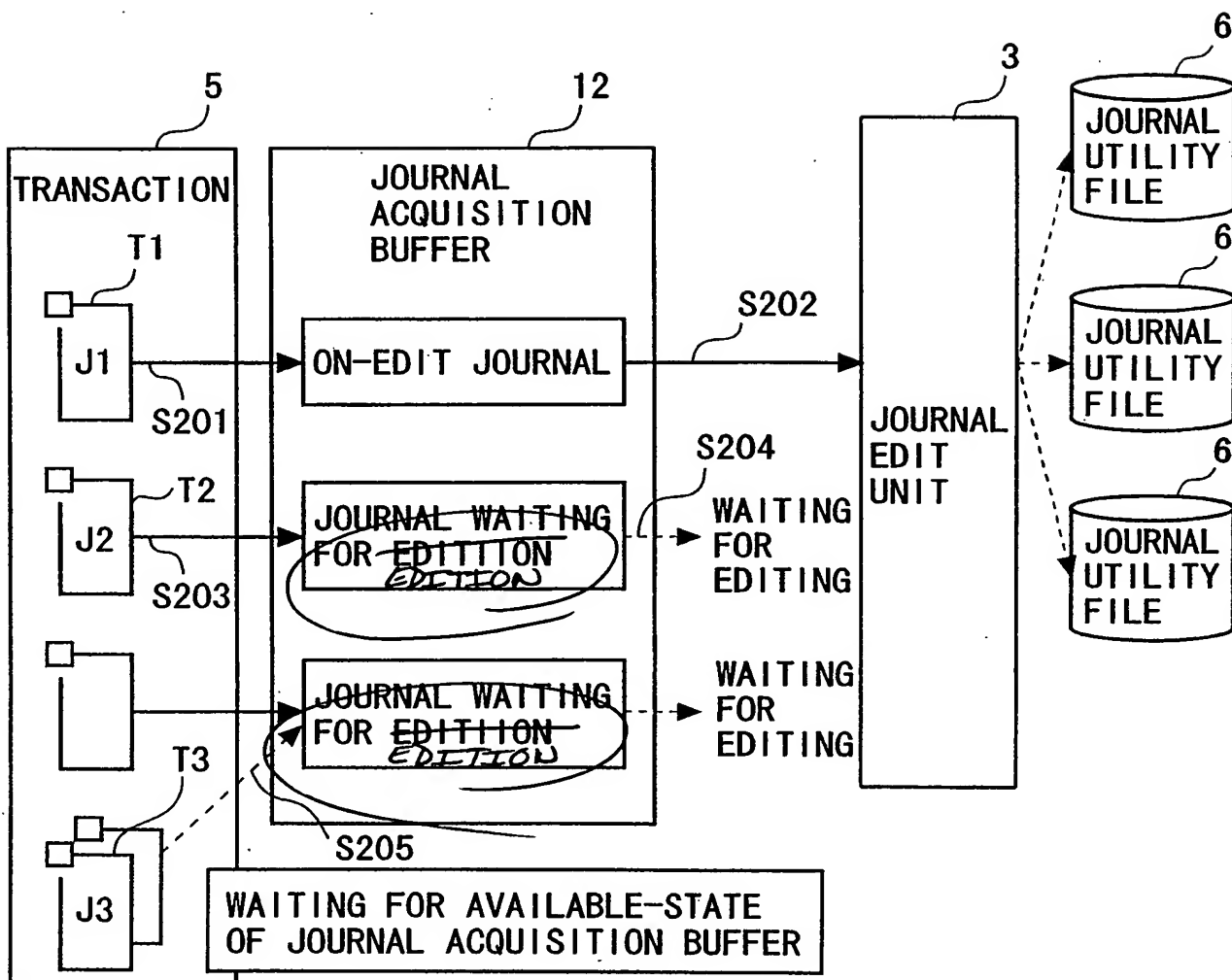


FIG. 7

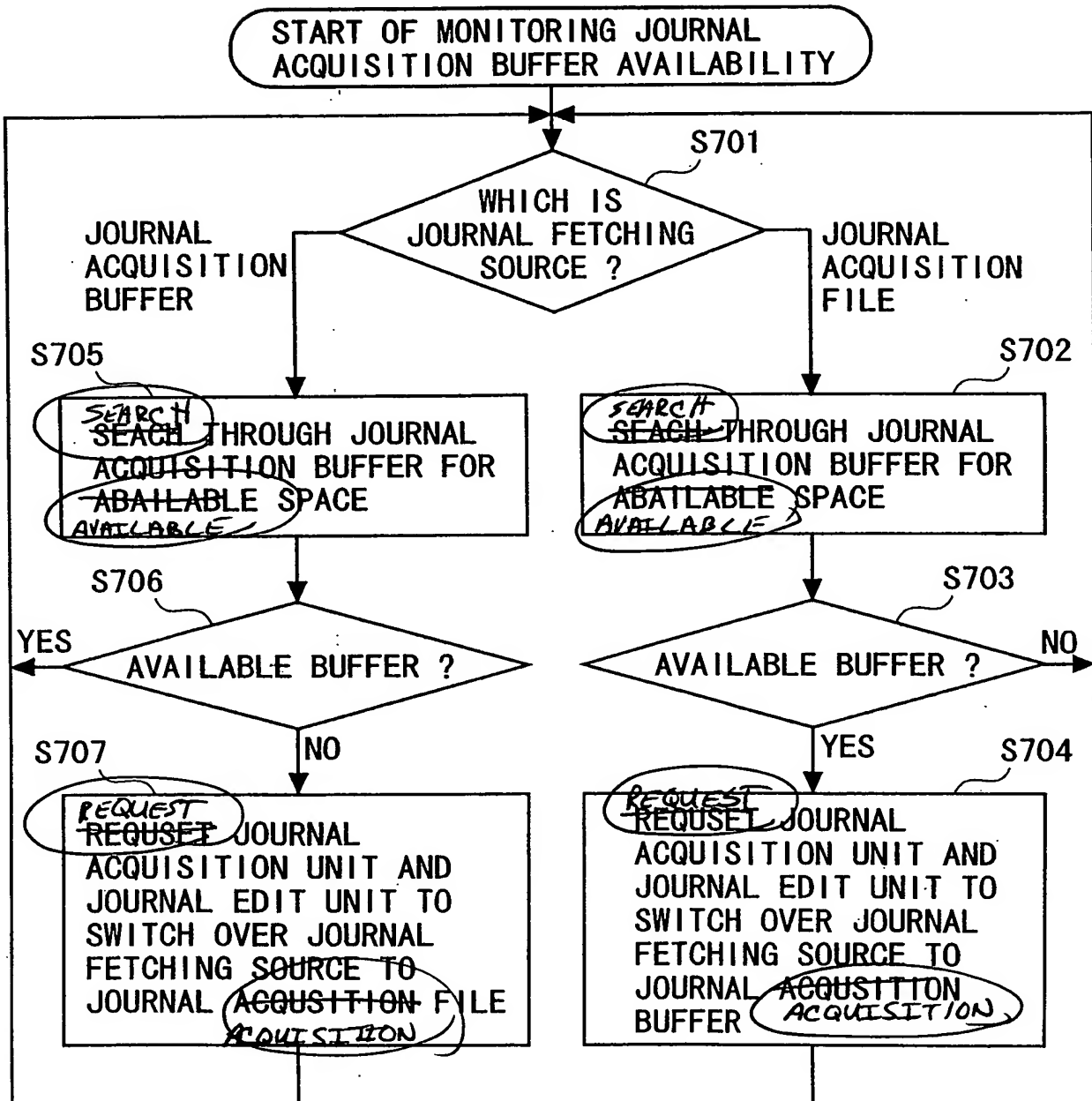


FIG. 10

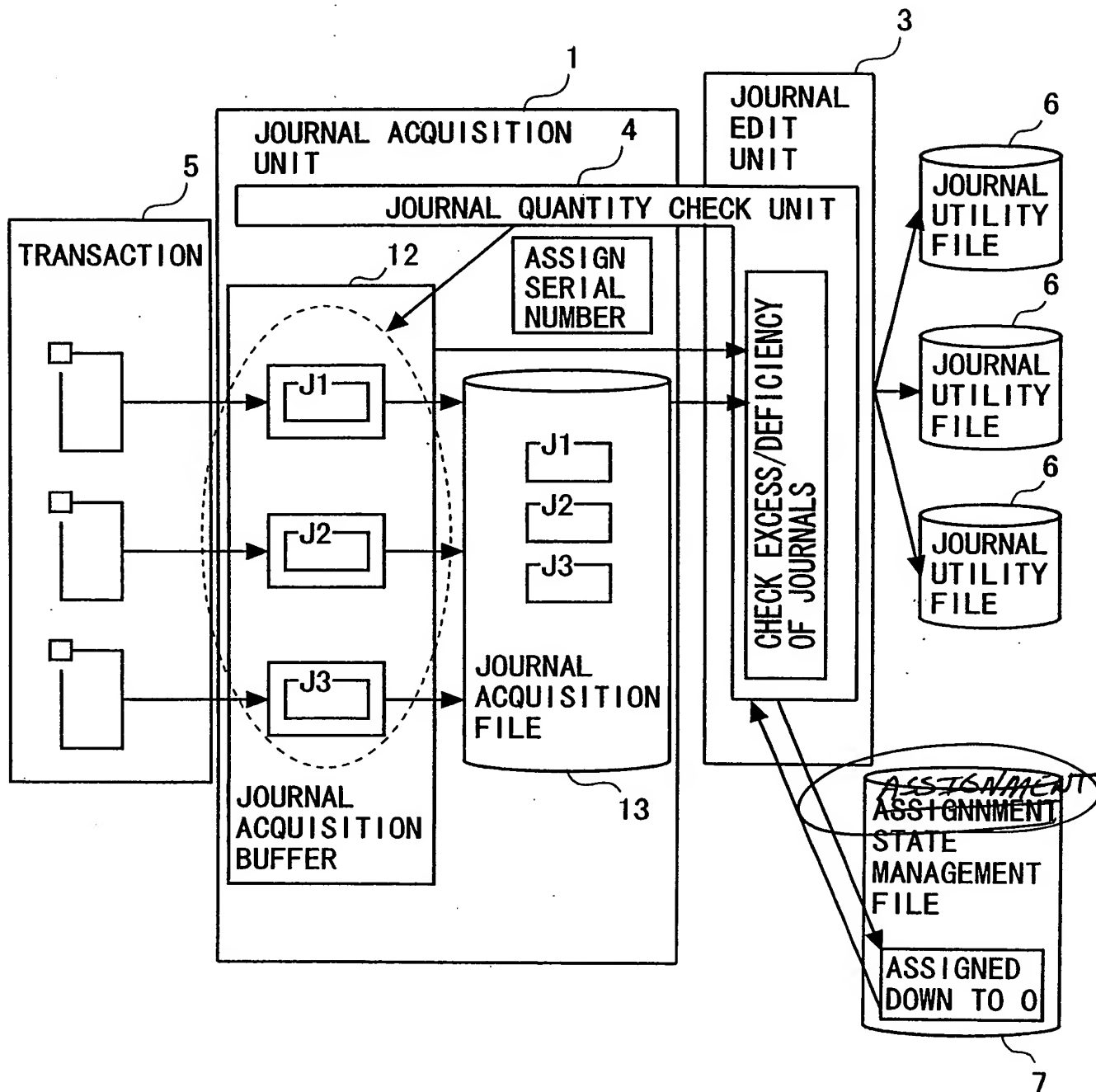


FIG. 12

JOURNAL ACQUISITION UNIT 1

JOURNAL QUANTITY CHECK UNIT 4

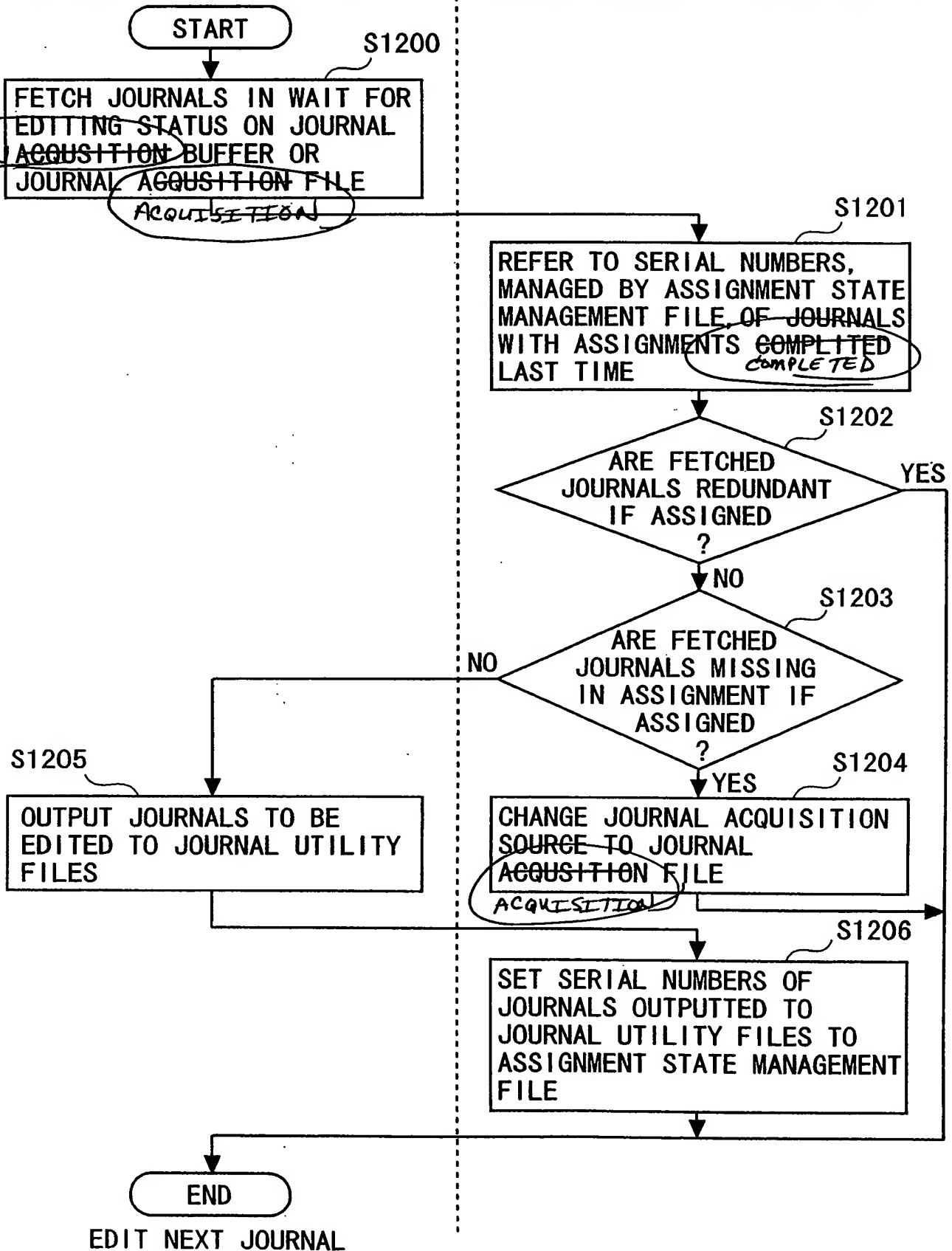


FIG. 13

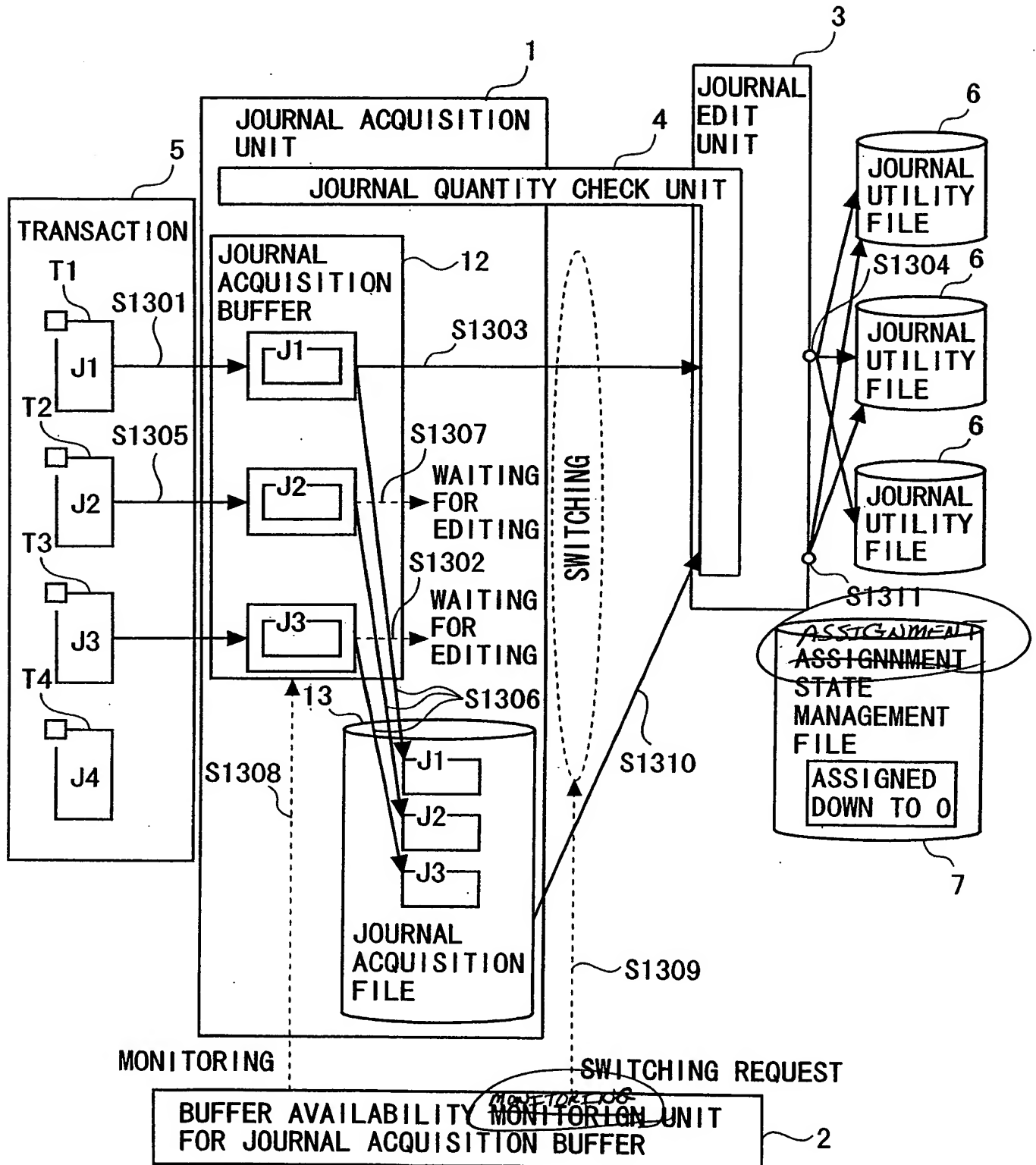


FIG. 14

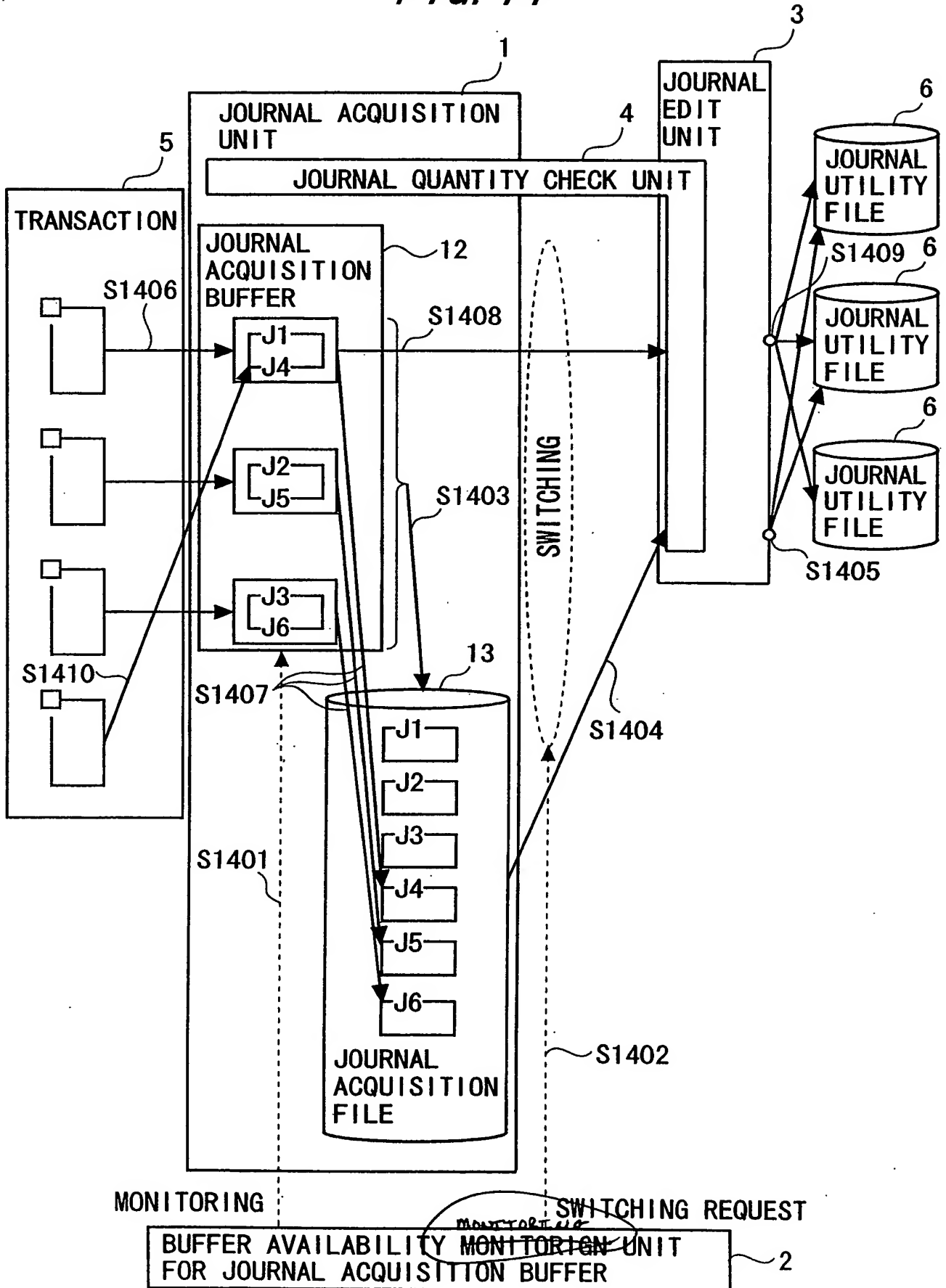


FIG. 15

